

From: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 4/6/2012 4:37:26 PM
To: llegere@timeshamrock.com
CC: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Re: Update on latest water sampling data from Dimock, Pa.

Laura -- I hope this helps you out:

1) Will there be a second round of sampling for any of the 20 wells covered in this round of sampling?

Answer: We will re-sample at one of the 20 wells because the arsenic level was below the MCL, but above our trigger level.

2) Do any of the detections (in particular, methane above 28 mg/L, arsenic above 10 mg/L, sodium above 200 mg/L or DEHP at 5.51 ug/L) raise any health or safety concerns or require any treatment or venting?

Answer: EPA found no levels that present a health concern based on risk assessments performed by EPA toxicologists. In performing risk assessments, the toxicologists consider chronic (long term) as well as acute (ie. immediate) conditions.

Regarding methane, as part of our sampling efforts, when a well is found to have methane levels above 28 ppm, we notify the resident, the state, and the county emergency management agency. This would also trigger a toxicological review and expedite a quality assurance review.

In four of the 31 homes in the first two rounds of samples EPA found levels of methane above the 28 ppm level. Two of these wells were not connected to the residences at the time of the sample because the residents were receiving alternate water from Cabot. EPA has notified the two residences where the water was being used in the home and the residents indicated they were already aware that their water contained levels of methane. EPA also notified Pennsylvania DEP and the Susquehanna County EMA, and can work with local officials to provide recommendations to affected residents in the event that use of well water is resumed. EPA will continue to follow this process should there be any similar instance.

Regarding arsenic, see answer to the question above.

Regarding sodium:

* One of the 20 wells sampled had levels of sodium above EPA's recommended concentration of sodium in drinking water of between 30,000 and 60,000 micrograms per cubic liter (ug/l). At this well, the residents are currently receiving alternate sources of drinking water from Cabot.

* Eight of the 20 wells sampled had levels of sodium above EPA's guidance of 20,000 ug/l for individuals with a restricted sodium intake of 500 mg/day.

EPA's Drinking Water Advisory for sodium recommends reducing sodium concentrations in drinking water to between 30,000 and 60,000 ug/l based on esthetic effects such as taste. Drinking water containing between 30,000 and 60,000 ug/l is unlikely to be perceived as salty by most individuals and would contribute only 2.5% to 5% of the dietary goal if tap water consumption is 2 L/day. This recommendation is not federally enforceable but is intended as a guideline for states. States may establish higher or lower levels depending on local conditions, such as unavailability of alternate source waters or other compelling factors, provided that public health and welfare are not adversely affected.

EPA also has a 20,000 ug/l guideline that is currently used as a health-based guide for individuals whose dietary intake of sodium is severely restricted at a level of 500 mg of sodium from all dietary sources daily. In this scenario, an individual could drink 2 liters of water each day, and consume only 40 mg of sodium from that water - only a small portion of their total intake, even at 500 mg daily. This guidance is not a regulatory standard and does not apply

to the general population.

Regarding NEHP, we are not aware of any samples that were above our trigger level.

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From: [REDACTED]
To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/06/2012 04:04 PM
Subject: Re: Update on latest water sampling data from Dimock, Pa.

Hi Roy,

It might be too late in the day for this, but I wanted to ask two quick follow-up questions on this release:

Will there be a second round of sampling for any of the 20 wells covered in this round of sampling?

Do any of the detections (in particular, methane above 28 mg/L, arsenic above 10 mg/L, sodium above 200 mg/L or DEHP at 5.51 ug/L) raise any health or safety concerns or require any treatment or venting?

Thanks very much,

[REDACTED]

On Fri, Apr 6, 2012 at 12:33 PM, Roy Seneca <Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:
EPA has completed and shared with residents and Pennsylvania state officials the second set of sampling at 20 private drinking water wells in Dimock, Pa. This set of sampling did not show levels of contaminants that would give EPA reason to take immediate action. EPA remains committed to providing Dimock residents with the best available data and information on the quality of drinking water as expeditiously as possible.

For more information on the sampling results, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/states/pa.html>

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